BENGALURU, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror

ON SATURDAY

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Police nab couple in gold heist

Caretaker and her husband are arrested for stealing gold worth ₹20.24 lakh from Hennur apartment

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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CRIME FILES

A jewellery heist involving a caretaker and her husband, recovering 253 grams of stolen gold worth ₹20.24 lakh. The accused, who had been employed to care for an elderly woman, fled with valuables and cash, only to be apprehended weeks later in HBR Layout.

The case came to light when the victim's family, residing in an apartment under Hennur police limits, filed a complaint on January 17. According to the complaint, the accused took up a job as a caretaker to look after an elderly woman on December 31, 2024. However, just 10 days after joining, the accused disappeared on the morning of January 11, without informing anyone. Attempts to contact them went unanswered. Assuming she had quit, the family didn't raise concerns initially. However, upon checking the cupboard, they found gold, diamonds, and ₹2.5 lakh in cash missing.

Police tracked down the caretaker Sonia and her husband Pradeep near HBR Layout 4th Block on February 26.

Man held with explosives

A 23-year-old man was arrested for illegal possession of an explosive substance at Sridevi Vaibhav Hotel on Thanisandra Main Road. Acting on intelligence, police officials swooped in on the suspect, Abdul Rehman bin Asif, after receiving a tip-off from the hotel owner.

According to the police, the incident unfolded around 9:30 am on Thursday, when Intelligence Officer Bharat Lamani received information regarding a suspicious object in the hotel premises. Responding swiftly, a team rushed to the scene to investigate.

Upon arrival, the hotel owner pointed out a worker who was allegedly in possession of a red, ball-shaped object resembling a tennis ball with wicks protruding from it. When questioned, Rehman hesitated before admitting that the object was indeed an explosive. He failed to provide any license or authorisation for possessing such a substance. The police immediately took Rehman into custody.

College student ends life

A 21-year-old student from , Calicut, Kerala, identified as Laxmi Mitra, died by suicide on Friday by jumping from the fourth floor of a building at Private College. The incident occurred at around 1:30 pm. Police officials have confirmed the incident and are investigating the circumstances that led to her taking this step. She was shifted to Saptagiri Medical College by college faculty. However, Soladevanahalli police officials are waiting for her parents to give a formal complaint and further details are awaited. Laxmi Mitra was pursuing a BCA degree at the college.

Fake cop caught extorting

A habitual offender who posed as a police officer to extort money from couples in parks has been apprehended. The accused, identified as Asif alias Pistol, has more than 14 similar cases registered against him.

According to the police, Asif would enter parks and observe couples before approaching them. He would intimidate them by claiming to be a police officer and threatening to call their families to the police station. Fearful of embarrassment, many victims complied with his demands. In his latest act, Asif allegedly stole a 12-gram gold chain from two individuals in a park near Jayanagar. However, his luck ran out when the police received multiple complaints and launched an investigation. Jayanagar police traced and apprehended the accused.

Husband kills wife, surrenders

A case of domestic violence emerged in Suddagunte Palya, where a husband allegedly killed his wife and then informed her mother about the crime. The victim, 35-year-old Shilpa, was married to Muthu since 2010. The couple resided in Narayanappa Garden, Suddagunte Palya. Muthu was reportedly suspicious of his wife and neglected his responsibilities at home. Shilpa's family had been caring for their child due to his indifference. On Tuesday, Muthu called Shilpa's mother, confessing to having killed her. He also informed his landlord about his intention to surrender. The police arrived at the scene, conducted an inspection, and registered a case. They have taken Muthu into custody.

IN BRIEF

Serial bike thief nabbed

A man involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts was arrested near the BMTC bus depot at JP Nagar 8th Phase on March 12. The Puttenahalli Police apprehended the accused and recovered two stolen bikes worth ₹60,000. The case dates back to February 1, when a resident of Doresanipalya, BG Road, filed a complaint at the Puttenahalli Police Station. The complainant had parked his two-wheeler outside his residence, only to find it missing the next morning. A case of theft was registered. Following a probe, police tracked down the suspect and found him in possession of a stolen vehicle. During interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing the bikes from Puttenahalli and Byatarayanapura police station limits. **BMB**

3 stolen bikes recovered

A man accused of multiple two-wheeler thefts was arrested near Shamanna Garden, Srinagar, on March 13. Acting on a tip-off, the Hanumantanagar police, apprehended the suspect, leading to the recovery of three stolen two-wheelers worth ₹1 lakh.

The case originated from a complaint filed on March 10, where a resident reported that their two-wheeler had been stolen from outside their apartment in Hanumantha Nagar police station limits. As investigations progressed, officers tracked the suspect and detained him. Further probe led the police to an empty lot near Kempegowda Playground, where the stolen bikes were hidden. **BMB**

Phone snatcher caught

A habitual offender involved in multiple cases of mobile phone extortion and two-wheeler thefts across the city has been arrested by the Puttenahalli Police. The accused, a resident of JP Nagar 4th phase, was taken into custody following an investigation leading to the recovery of 10 stolen mobile phones and two two-wheelers. The case came to light on February 16, when a complaint was filed at Puttenahalli Police Station. The complainant stated that while speaking on his phone near Clarence School in JP Nagar, an unidentified individual on a two-wheeler snatched the device and fled. Based on the complaint, the police launched an investigation. The accused, who was already serving time at the central jail for an extortion case filed at Rajagopalnagar Police Station, was taken into custody for interrogation on March 6. During questioning, he confessed to his involvement in several thefts across the city. **BMB**

Court flags AEE selection irregularities

The Karnataka High Court has issued a warning to the state administration, Karnataka State Public Service Commission (KPSC), and other authorities regarding potential CBI involvement in investigating alleged irregularities in the selection process for 24 assistant executive engineer (AEE) positions.

Whilst hearing petitions from approximately 10 selected and appointed candidates, a division bench comprising Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Ramachandra D Huddar observed that all involved parties may present their perspectives before any decision on a CBI investigation. The bench also requested clarification from the government on various matters discussed during the proceedings, particularly regarding the necessity of a CBI probe. The court recognised the government's initiatives to enhance the public recruitment system. However, it highlighted that documentation relating to AEE recruitment suggests possible impropriety by certain KPSC officials and government personnel at particular levels. **BMB**

HC: Lokayukta can't probe without FIR

The Karnataka High Court has determined that gathering evidence by the Lokayukta police before registering an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act violates Section 17A of the Act.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued this ruling whilst partially accepting a petition by S Laxmi and others from Pattana Panchayat, Jagalur, Davangere District. The petitioners sought to invalidate the inquiry/investigation conducted following a complaint registered on April 20, 2019. The petitioners argued that the Lokayukta's three-year investigation and evidence collection against them was unlawful. They highlighted that the proper sequence required prior approval, FIR registration, and then investigation, none of which were followed.

The Lokayukta defended its actions as preliminary inquiry, stating they had now sought Section 17A permission to register the crime, thus claiming no procedural violation. They maintained that document collection does not constitute a legal investigation. The bench examined Section 17A, which requires prior approval from the Competent Authority for investigating public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act regarding their official duties. The court emphasised that Section 17A serves as a filter against vexatious prosecutions and must be strictly observed. **BMB**

HC defines witness security rules

The Karnataka High Court has determined that police protection for witnesses would be provided without charge, subject to a threat analysis report. This ruling was issued by Justice M Nagaprasanna's Single-judge Bench on March 17, following a petition from a kidnapping victim who was the sole witness in the case.

Azmeera Raju, the petitioner, sought complimentary gunman protection and threat assessment. Raju had been kidnapped by a gang from Bengaluru's MG Road in June last year, before being rescued by police in Telangana, leading to two arrests.

The petitioner's legal representative argued that Raju should receive free police protection as a "witness" under the 2018 Witness Protection Scheme. The state's counsel opposed this, citing Raju's criminal history, his temporary hotel accommodation in Bengaluru, and alleged misuse of interim protection by requesting police presence at coffee shops. The defence countered that no misuse occurred, explaining that Raju's lack of a permanent Bengaluru address necessitated his stay in a service apartment. **BMB**

Burqa-clad man enters girls' hostel

A security lapse at the Ramabai Hostel in Jnanabharati campus has raised concerns after a man disguised in a burqa managed to enter the girls' hostel on Thursday night.

According to officials, the unidentified individual entered the hostel premises around 9 pm. However, his suspicious behaviour did not go unnoticed. Alert students quickly informed the authorities, prompting two police officers to rush to the scene. The man was taken into custody but later let off with a warning. The incident has once again put hostel security under scrutiny. With hostels meant to be a safe haven for students, the ease with which an outsider gained access has sparked fear among residents. **BMB**

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ENTER SPLITSVILLE

More and more couples deciding to call it quits with 1,95,210 divorce petitions registered statewide between 2020 and February 2025

PAGE 2

SOMETHING STINKS

Leaky manhole has turned footpath on MG Road into spot everybody wants to avoid, just months after basic touch-up work was done

PAGE 4

Police data reveals that 1 vehicle is stolen every 48 minutes in Bengaluru; this year in 2 months, 1,640 theft cases recorded; most often stolen vehicles are used to commit other crimes

A WRONG RIDE

Vehicles parked outside homes turn easy pickings

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> **"Vehicle theft is not just a financial loss for the owner but also a serious law and order concern, as stolen vehicles are often used to facilitate other criminal activities, including smuggling, robberies, and even violent crimes**
>
> — B Dayananda, Police Commissioner

The city's vehicle theft menace is worsening, with figures from October 2024, December 2024, and February 2025 revealing that on average at least 28 vehicles are stolen every single day in Bengaluru. This translates to one vehicle vanishing from Bengaluru's streets every 48 minutes. In January and February of this year, a total of 1,640 motor vehicle theft cases have been registered.

From October to February, a total of 4,179 vehicle theft cases were reported — 839 in October, 777 in November, 923 in December, 902 in January 2025, and 738 in February 2025. December recorded the highest number of thefts, with over 950 cases, followed closely by January and November.

"A majority of these thefts occurred in residential areas, with nearly 90% of incidents taking place when vehicles were parked outside houses or near PG accommodations. Vehicle theft is not just a financial loss for the owner but also a serious law and order concern, as stolen vehicles are often used to facilitate other criminal activities, including smuggling, robberies, and even violent crimes. Strict action is being taken against such offenses, and the police are intensifying efforts to curb vehicle theft through increased patrolling, awareness campaigns, and technological interventions," said Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda

In 2024, a total of 5,351 vehicle theft cases were reported, out of which 2,040 cases resulted in recoveries. The total value of stolen property amounted to Rs 265,302,803, while the value of the recovered property stood at Rs 131,475,049, reflecting the ongoing efforts of law enforcement to curb vehicle theft in the city.

Recently, a man involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

Not in the deep freeze

DG&IGP issues new norms that keep account-holders in mind while freezing/unfreezing accounts linked to probes

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The Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP), Karnataka, has issued fresh guidelines for freezing and unfreezing bank accounts linked to criminal investigations, ensuring legal oversight and due process.

The order issued outlines a structured procedure for investigating officers (IOs) to freeze and unfreeze bank accounts, deposits, shares, and valuable securities linked to accused persons, suspects, or crime beneficiaries. The directive ensures legal compliance while safeguarding the interests of account holders.

According to the order, the first step for an IO is to identify the main bank accounts of the accused and immediately issue a "debit freeze" under Section 106 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The bank concerned must also furnish statements of frozen accounts for analysis. Subsequently, officers must trace additional accounts, shares, or securities related to the accused, freezing them where necessary while ensuring no unauthorized withdrawals occur.

In a recent case, nearly 14 bank accounts were frozen after an unidentified man

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Play time

Aajivika is organising 'Allamana Bayalatha', a play which explores the idea that self-awareness is the ultimate guide to higher consciousness. Reflecting Allama's profound outlook, the play brings to life his discourse on silence and emptiness. **Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra, Sampangiramanagar; When: March 22, 6.30 pm**

02 Kafka reimagined

TFA Prodcations is presenting 'Innocence', an interpretation of Fran Kafka's famous novel, 'The Trial' in a contemporary Indian context. Early one morning, two strangers arrive at the apartment of a bank manager, claiming to be policemen. They drag him out of bed, and inform him that he is under arrest. How will this impasse be resolved? **Where: Raga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: March 22, 7.30 pm**

03 Brewing wonders

Women's Coffee Alliance India (WCAI), the India chapter of International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) is set to host the 7th edition of their 'Coffee Santhe', a three-day event which serves as WCAI's primary fundraising event aimed at empowering women coffee plantation workers. **Where: Freedom Park; When: March 21 to 23**

04 Folk frame

The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) is presenting 'Aasmana Anasuya', a film on Telugu folk, as part of the second edition of Women's History Month, a month-long festival throughout March 2025 dedicated to celebrating and amplifying the invaluable contributions of women to the diverse landscape of Indian music. **Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar; When: March 22, 1.30 pm**

05 Ready, set, go!

CMR University is set to host the 'Aarohann' marathon. The student-led initiative will feature 5K, 8K, and 10K runs, welcoming both students and the general public to participate. Padma Shri Dr KS Rajanna and renowned actor Dhruva Sarja will be the chief guests for the run. **Where: CMR University, Lakeside Campus Bagalur; When: March 23, 6 am**

1.95 L divorce cases filed in last five years

With 66,863 filings, highest number of cases recorded during 2022 shows drastic increase of 176.96% compared to previous year

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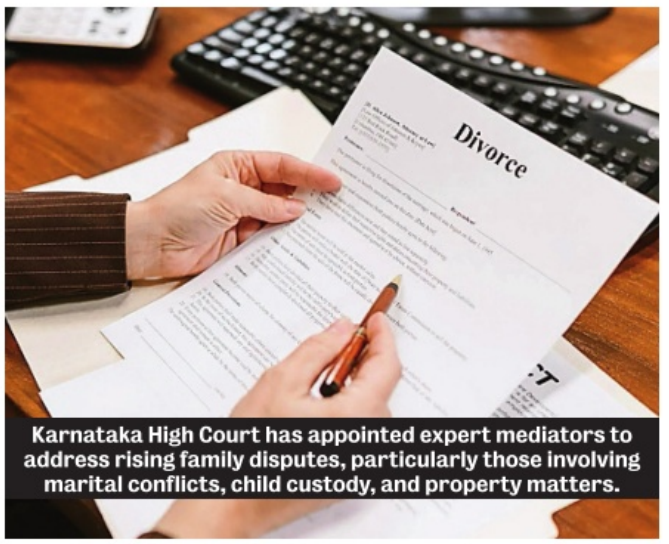

Karnataka High Court has appointed expert mediators to address rising family disputes, particularly those involving marital conflicts, child custody, and property matters.

Since 2020, Karnataka has recorded a total of 1,95,136 divorce cases filed, with a sharp surge observed in 2022. Recent data reveals a significant rise in divorce cases filed across Karnataka's family courts. Between 2020 and February 2025, a total of 195,210 divorce petitions have been registered statewide, with notable fluctuations in annual filings.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil, in one of his responses in the Legislative Council, noted that the number of divorce cases filed in Karnataka stood at 20,454 in 2020, and rose to 24,141 in 2021. "A sharp increase was observed in 2022, with cases surging to 66,863.

The highest case resolution occurred in 2022, with 65,971 cases settled, leaving 43,685 pending

However, 2023 saw a decline, with 41,230 cases filed, followed by a further drop to 36,952 in 2024," he said. He highlighted that as of February 2025, 5,576 cases have been registered. In terms of percentage, he said that 2021 recorded an 18.02% increase compared to the previous year, while 2022 saw a drastic rise of 176.96%. "However, 2023 witnessed a 38.33% decline, and in 2024, cases dropped by another 10.37%. The number of cases registered in 2025 so far represents an 84.91% decrease compared to the previous year," he said.

Year-wise number of divorce cases filed
2020 – 20,454
2021 – 24,141
2022 – 66,863
2023 – 41,230
2024 – 36,952
2025 – 5,576 (until February)

He said that the Karnataka High Court has appointed expert mediators to address rising family disputes, particularly those involving marital conflicts, child custody, and property matters. "These professionals operate through dedicated mediation centers, providing counseling and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to protect family rights and promote amicable settlements," Patil added.

When it comes to case resolutions, the annual number of cases that have been successfully disposed of has demonstrated noticeable fluctuations over time. In 2020, 13,278 cases were settled, while 37,513 remained pending. In 2021, the number of resolved cases increased to 18,861, with pending cases at 42,793. The highest case resolution occurred in 2022, with 65,971 cases settled, leaving 43,685 pending. In 2023, 43,244 cases were disposed of, with 41,671 still in progress. The numbers stood at 30,907 resolved and 36,999 pending in 2024, whereas up to February 2025, 5,756 cases have been settled, with 36,819 still pending.

Four arrested in mobile phone theft racket

The RMC Yard Police have busted a mobile phone theft racket, arresting four individuals and recovering 70 stolen mobile phones, of which 44 were iPhones worth ₹43 lakh. The breakthrough came after a complainant from Malleswaram reported the theft of her husband's iPhone near Yeshwanthpur Market on March 2, 2025. Following the complaint on March 6, the police investigated and, on March 13, caught two individuals at Platinum City Apartment Road with five stolen phones. During interrogation, they confessed to the crime and disclosed that their three accomplices, based in Bhadravati in Shivamogga district, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu would steal phones and supply them for resale.

The accused confessed to having stolen hundreds of mobile phones, which they allegedly sold in Chennai. While attempting to purchase 25 stolen phones, a Tamil Nadu-based buyer at their Soladevanahalli hideout was captured. Further questioning led to another arrest near Goraguntepalya metro station on March 14, where an accomplice was caught with 25 stolen mobile phones. A raid at the Bhadravati residence of one of the accused resulted in the seizure of 15 more devices.

All four arrested individuals identified as Shubin, Ahmed, Thopic and Faizal were produced in court and remanded to judicial custody on March 18. Currently, efforts are underway to trace the rightful owners of the stolen phones, and a manhunt has been launched for two absconding suspects. The police are urging victims of mobile theft to report their missing devices to aid in the recovery process. — BMB

No retest for KPSC: KAT

The Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) has rejected the plea to conduct a re-examination for the preliminary test of the Gazetted Probationary Officers' recruitment for 384 Group 'A' and 'B' posts. However, KAT has directed a panel of experts to reassess the translation errors found in the question paper before making a final decision. With this ruling, the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) now has a clear path to proceed with the main examination as scheduled from March 28.

A two-member bench, comprising judicial member SY Vatavati and administrative member Dr Amita Prasad, delivered the verdict after reviewing the petitions filed by candidate Pavithra and others. In its 38-page order, KAT stated that since the preliminary exam had already been canceled once and re-conducted, ordering another re-test at this stage was not feasible.

The tribunal acknowledged that errors existed in the translation of the question paper from English to Kannada. An expert panel had already awarded compensatory marks for such mistakes. If further translation discrepancies exist, candidates can refer to the English version of the question paper. The tribunal noted that translation errors in applications numbered 285 to 308/2025 must be re-examined by the expert committee, which has been given one week to take necessary action.

Translation errors in examination

KPSC initially conducted the preliminary examination on August 27, 2024. However, due to major translation errors in the question paper, the exam was cancelled. A re-examination was then held on December 29, 2024, across 553 centers, with 2.10 lakh candidates registering. Of these, 1.05 lakh (47.7%) appeared for the exam. Despite efforts to rectify the mistakes, around 59 questions were still found to have translation errors, prompting candidates to file petitions with KAT, seeking the cancellation of the test. Sources said that KPSC declared the preliminary examination results on February 10, shortlisting candidates for the main examination in a 1:15 ratio. — BMB

Nightlife policy sparks mixed reactions

As Bengaluru inches closer to formalising its nightlife policy, pub owners and partygoers are celebrating the move, while many residents are pushing back, citing concerns over noise and safety. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar recently assured the Legislative Council that new guidelines would soon be introduced to regulate the city's nightlife.

"Bengaluru is an internationally renowned city, and nightlife should be encouraged. We will discuss the matter with the Home and Excise Ministers, and issue guidelines soon," Shivakumar said. His statement came in response to BJP MLC HS Gopinath, who pointed out that pubs were being forced to shut down at 11.30 pm due to Excise Department regulations, leading to increased police harassment of pub owners.

"Extending operating hours will boost business and tourism," said a pub owner from Indiranagar, while welcoming the move. A resident from Koramangala expressed concern, stating, "Longer pub hours mean more late-night noise and drunken behavior in residential areas."

Protecting lake areas

DK Shivakumar also noted that constructing buildings in buffer zones around lakes is illegal. Replying to a question by JDS MLC TA Sharavana, he said that it has been observed that residential layouts are being developed in dried-up lake beds. "Many prominent locations, including Chinnaswamy Stadium and Majestic Bus Stand, were once lakes. However, the High Court, Supreme Court, and National Green Tribunal have strictly prohibited construction in buffer zones. Any violations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis," he said. — BMB

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Years of promises, but no action on stinky manhole

Despite repeated complaints, sewage overflow and stench continue to make MG Road's footpath nightmare for pedestrians just months after basic repairs

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The footpath along the Rajendra Sinhji Army Officers Institute compound on MG Road is once again in a poor state after a brief improvement. Despite public complaints, authorities have yet to find a permanent solution to the recurring sewage overflow from a manhole, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, 'An Eyesore on MG Road' on March 26, 2023, highlighting how the MG Road footpath - overflowing with sewage and now an open urinal for miscreants—reflects the state of urban infrastructure in ruins and described how traffic police near Mayo Hall Junction are struggling to cope with the foul odour.

It may be recalled that during this correspondent's visit to the Rajendra Sinhji Army Officers' Institute two years ago, an army officer had assured that the water leakage issue from the compound would be fixed.

The authorities took some measures to paint the compound wall and fix the water leakage. They have also installed steel barricades to prevent irresponsible citizens attending nature's call along the compound wall.

However, the manhole problem is yet to be fixed even in two years thus ruining the image of MG Road. Around 50 vehicles are parked along the curb space on the road due to various reasons. Until now the drivers and pedestrians are most affected due to bad odour and unhygienic atmosphere in the region.

The scene at the footpath along Rajendra Sinhji Army Officers Institute compound on MG Road. Sewage overflows onto the road

> **"The authorities keep shifting blame. When I approached Army officers, they held BWSSB responsible for it, while BWSSB claims it is in the Institute's purview**
>
> –BR Chandra, social activist

Expressing concern over the delay in resolving the issue, BR Chandran, a social activist and frequent visitor to Mayo Hall Court, said that he has repeatedly complained to the authorities, including BBMP and BWSSB, but no action has been taken. "The authorities keep shifting blame. When I approached Army officers, they held BWSSB responsible for the manhole issue. Meanwhile, BWSSB claims the manhole belongs to the Rajendra Sinhji Army Officers' Institute. It would be a great relief for pedestrians if the concerned authorities took responsibility and ensured the footpath was free from this nuisance," said Chandran.

Showing similar concerns, a traffic police constable stationed at the Mayo Hall Junction on MG Road said that he struggles to endure the foul odour from stagnant dirty water on the road. "I have already informed the BBMP authorities, but no action has been taken to resolve the issue," he said.

Some cab drivers who park their vehicles on MG Road have urged BBMP and BWSSB authorities to keep the footpath clean. "The BWSSB should instruct the Rajendra Sinhji Army Officers' Institute to ensure a proper sanitary connection to prevent sewage from overflowing onto the footpath. We are concerned about our health due to the unhygienic conditions here," said Prakash Babu, a cab driver.

Meanwhile, BWSSB assistant executive engineer said that he would visit the spot soon. "I am not aware of the problem. No one has brought it to my notice. I will look into the matter," he said.

As heat rises, city reels under power outages

Power consumption surges during summer heat, worsening outages across the city

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With summer setting in, Karnataka is experiencing widespread load shedding, leaving farmers and residents frustrated by erratic power supply. Frequent outages, often attributed to maintenance work, have become a daily struggle in both urban and rural areas.

A sharp decline in water levels across major reservoirs has affected hydroelectric power generation; while soaring temperatures have driven electricity demand to record highs. The state's daily power requirement has now exceeded 18,000 megawatts (MW), according to the Energy Department.

Rising demand vs. limited supply

Karnataka's current peak electricity demand stands at 18,200 MW, with total power generation across all sources—hydropower, wind, thermal, and solar—producing only 8,000 MW. Additionally, the state receives 6,183 MW from Central Generating Stations (CGS), 600 MW from the central grid, and 310 MW from NTPC. To bridge the gap, Karnataka is purchasing 1,575 MW from other states. Despite these efforts, there remains a shortfall of 1,532 MW, leading to supply disruptions.

Impact of Gruha Jyoti Scheme

Officials suggest that the Gruha Jyoti scheme, which provides free electricity to households, has significantly contributed to the rise in power consumption. With no electricity charges, consumers are using power excessively, leading to a three- to fourfold increase in usage. The summer heat has further escalated consumption as people rely heavily on fans and air conditioners.

Karnataka's current peak electricity demand stands at 18,200 MW

10% increase in demand compared to last year

Last summer, Karnataka's peak power demand was 17,000 MW. This year, demand has surged by 10%, driven by higher consumption in agriculture, industries, commercial sectors, and households. The Energy Department estimates that demand will reach 19,000 MW by the end of March and stay high through May. However, the ongoing supply-demand gap remains a challenge, causing frequent power outages across the state.

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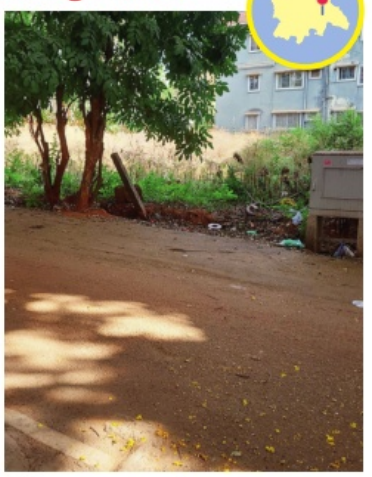

Unkempt vegetation near Lottegollahalli is creating health risks for residents and has turned into a breeding ground for snakes and pests.

Waste zone
St Joseph's High School

Trash accumulation near St. Joseph's High School remains unattended to, and pourakarmikas respond rudely when asked to clear it.

Blocked pathway
Raghavendra Mutt Road

Construction materials dumped on Raghavendra Mutt Road, Jayanagar 5th Block, have made walking difficult, forcing pedestrians onto the road.

Activists oppose Cubbon Park holiday entry

Environmental activists have strongly opposed the government's move to reconsider the ban on public entry into Cubbon Park during holidays, arguing that it would disrupt the park's delicate ecosystem. "Cubbon Park is one of the last green lungs of Bengaluru, home to numerous bird species and wildlife. The decision to close the park on holidays was taken to protect its biodiversity from excessive human interference. Reopening it will only lead to overcrowding, pollution, and further degradation," said an activist from a city-based environmental group.

Despite opposition from conservationists, the government is set to re-examine the restriction on public entry into Cubbon Park on holidays. Legislative Council Chairman and Minister NS Boseraju confirmed that a review would be conducted. BJP MLC DS Arun argued that closing the park gates on holidays creates difficulties for emergency vehicle movement, particularly ambulances. In response, Minister Boseraju clarified, "Emergency movement is already permitted. The High Court's directive mandates closing the gates on holidays, and no major inconveniences have been reported." However, Congress MLC BK Hariprasad defended the restriction, stating, "There is no need to review this decision."

Property tax: 100% fine only for defaulters

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has clarified regarding property tax penalties, clarifying that a 100% penalty is imposed only on chronic defaulters who fail to pay their dues for over two years despite multiple reminders. A BBMP official said, "Contrary to misinformation, BBMP does not impose a 100% penalty immediately after a missed payment. Property owners are given ample time, including a two-year window, multiple notices, SMS reminders, and public advertisements before strict action is taken. For instance, property tax for the financial year 2024-25 does not attract a 100% penalty on April 1, 2025. Instead, a simple interest of 15% per annum is applied throughout 2025-26. If the tax remains unpaid beyond April 1, 2026, the defaulter is then subjected to a 100% penalty."

BBMP officials emphasise that this measure targets only chronic defaulters who repeatedly ignore payment requests. "To ensure fairness to law-abiding taxpayers, BBMP is intensifying efforts to recover dues from persistent defaulters," added an official. **— BMB**

BM Finance Fundas

PAY ADVANCE TAX NOW TO SAVE INTEREST

While March 15, 2025, was the last date to pay advance income tax for FY 2024-25 you can still pay the last quarter's due advance tax. This payment will attract interest under Section 234C. However, despite this interest amount you will end up paying less than what you would pay after 31 March. In case you do not pay the last quarter's advance tax by March 31, 2025, then additional interest under Section 234B will also be levied from April 1, 2025. Advance tax has to be paid by every taxpayer whose total tax liability is above Rs 10,000 in a financial year.

To save on unnecessary interest costs, you must pay it now if possible.

What happens if you pay advance tax after March 15, 2025, but before March 31, 2025?

Interest under Section 234C needs to be paid if you are paying advance tax after the deadline of March 15, 2025. Under Section 234C interest at 1% rate per month or part of the month on the amount of deferred tax needs to be paid if the advance tax is paid after the deadline is over.

How is interest calculated under Section 234C for the shortfall in payment of advance tax?

CA (Dr) Suresh Surana explains that under Section 234C if the advance tax paid by the taxpayer on or before March 15, 2025, is less than the tax due, then, the taxpayer shall be liable to pay simple interest at the rate of one per cent on the amount of the shortfall from the tax due.

Surana explains using an example:

75% Tax liability paid off through advance tax on or before December 15, 2024. So the next instalment (due by March 15, 2025) ideally brings the total payment to 100%. However, if the remaining 25% is paid on March 17, 2025, there is a delay of 2 days beyond March 15, 2025. Aditi Goyal, Tax Partner, Trilegal, agrees with Surana and says, "In this case, the balance tax is deposited on 17 March 2025, the interest liability u/s 234C would be restricted to 1% of the shortfall."

"If someone has paid 75% of their advance tax liability on or before December 15, 2024, but paid the remaining 25% after March 15, 2025, but before March 31, 2025, say March 17, 2025, then it will be treated as delay in payment of advance tax for the last quarter and will attract interest at the rate of 1% as per the provisions of Sec. 234C(1)(A)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961," says Chartered Accountant Aastha Gupta, partner, SK Gulati and Associates. Mihir Tanna, associate director, SK Patodia LLP says: "If someone does not have the money to pay the advance tax amount in full, then I would suggest to pay whatever money that could be arranged be paid. Doing this will reduce the interest cost by that much amount which was paid on or before March 15." **— ET Online**

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Transfer chaos at city's sub-registrar offices

Issue not resolved as state fails to comply with HC order, leading to backlog of requests

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File photo of people waiting at a sub-registrar's office in the city

Confusion grips Bengaluru's sub-registrar offices as the government defies a High Court stay on transfers. Many officials lack login access, while 17 face alleged targeting. The government plans to challenge the order in the Supreme Court

If the chaos at some sub-registrar offices is any indication, it seems the state government has failed to comply with the High Court order staying the transfers of sub-registrars that were carried out through counselling. The government is reportedly planning to file a special leave petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court's order. Meanwhile, the delay in resolving the issue is causing disruptions in the registration of documents.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported on January 7, 2025, about the confusion at the Gandhinagar sub-registrar office, where two sub-registrars reported for duty at the same office, leading to inconvenience for both staff and the public.

The government had initially decided to transfer around 90 sub-registrars who had been working at the same offices for several years. However, some of these officials challenged the decision in the High Court, which subsequently stayed the government's order and directed that the sub-registrars remain at their current postings. The court also instructed the authorities to restore login access to these officials.

According to the High Court's order dated December 16, 2024, "The 32 officers who have already been relieved from their respective offices and reported for duty in their new postings are not given interim protection. The 24 officials who were relieved but had not yet joined their new offices shall be reinstated at their original postings forthwith. For all other officers who have approached the court, protection is granted to ensure they are not disturbed until the next hearing."

Despite the court's clear directive, some transferred sub-registrars are still struggling to regain access to their login credentials. Meanwhile, it is alleged that the higher authorities of the Department of Stamps and Registration have singled out 17 sub-registrars for not reporting to their new postings.

On December 31, 2024, several sub-registrars wrote to the Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, requesting access to their logins so they could resume work. However, their requests remain unaddressed.

In a related development, the Gandhinagar District Sub-Registrar has issued a show-cause notice to Sub-Registrar G. Roopa for reporting to duty at the Kacharakanahalli Sub-Registrar Office. The notice states, "You were suspended while working at Kacharakanahalli Sub-Registrar Office, yet you reported for duty on March 19, citing a High Court stay order. However, you did not produce a copy of the order. You are required to respond within 48 hours of receiving this notice. Failure to do so will result in a recommendation for disciplinary action against you," the show-cause notice red.

K'taka forms team to protect Cauvery

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday announced the formation of a team to prevent encroachment along the Cauvery River's flow path and curb pollution. Speaking to reporters at the Bhagamandala helipad, he emphasised the government's commitment to protecting the state's land, water, history, and traditions.

"We are forming a team to stop encroachment and pollution of Cauvery. A week-long water conservation campaign will be launched to mark World Water Day," he said.

As part of the campaign, the government will introduce Cauvery aarti to raise awareness about water conservation. Shivakumar offered prayers to Goddess Cauvery for good rains and a bountiful harvest. Funds have already been allocated for the Cauvery aarti, and local artists from Kodagu will be involved.A public oath against water misuse will also be introduced, available both in-person at Cauvery aarti events and online. The campaign will officially launch at Sankey Tank. "We had promised Cauvery aarti while offering baagina at the KRS dam last year we will ensure," he added. **-BMB**

BBMP speeds up e-khata process

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued a total of 2.71 lakh final e-Khatas so far, processing applications within an average of two days. Among the zones, Bommanahalli leads with 46,025 e-Khatas issued, followed by RR Nagar with 42,191 and Yelahanka with 38,494. Mahadevapura and South have distributed 37,793 and 37,738 e-Khatas, respectively, while West recorded 27,020, East 25,848, and Dasarahalli 16,818.

A BBMP official emphasised that citizens can now apply for their final e-Khata online through the BBMP e-Aasthi Portal, eliminating the need for physical visits to BBMP offices. Applications are verified by Assistant Revenue Officers and case workers to ensure quick processing. To make the process more efficient, BBMP has mandated daily virtual meetings across all eight zones and 64 revenue offices to monitor progress. This initiative aims to streamline distribution and provide a hassle-free experience for property owners, ensuring they receive their e-Khata promptly without unnecessary delays. **-BMB**

Parch alert: Reservoirs drying up as mercury rises

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File photo of KRS damw

Storage has dropped from 538.95 TMC to 418.13 TMC in a month, with Cauvery Basin reservoirs at 57% capacity. Experts warn of increased evaporation, urging judicious water use

The water level in Karnataka's major reservoirs is depleting rapidly as temperatures continue to rise.

The water level in the state's 14 reservoirs has now dropped to less than 50% of their total capacity. While these reservoirs have a combined capacity of 895.62 TMC, the current storage stands at 418.13 TMC, which is just 46.6%. Nearly a month ago, the cumulative water storage was recorded at 538.95 TMC.

Data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) shows that water levels in the four Cauvery Basin reservoirs have also declined. The Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam, Harangi, Hemavati, and Kabini reservoirs, which together have a total capacity of 114.57 TMC, now hold only 66.04 TMC—about 57% of their total capacity. A month ago, these reservoirs had 78.34 TMC, or 68% of their capacity.

However, the overall storage situation is better than last year. During the same period in 2024, reservoir levels had fallen to just 31% of their total storage capacity, and in the Cauvery Basin, storage had dropped to less than 35%.

Experts caution that while the situation is not as dire as last year, it is crucial to use water judiciously.

"With no inflow expected into the dams until the monsoon, a significant amount of water will also be lost due to evaporation. Given the rising temperatures, this loss is likely to be higher than average. Therefore, it is essential to manage the available water carefully to prevent shortages during the rest of the summer," said a city-based expert.

India Scenario

According to the Central Water Commission, the total live storage capacity of 155 reservoirs across the country is 180.852 BCM, which accounts for about 70.15% of the total estimated live storage capacity of 257.812 BCM.

As per the reservoir storage bulletin dated March 20, the live storage available in these reservoirs stands at 80.700 BCM, which is 45% of their total live storage capacity.

However, the overall storage position across the country is better than it was during the same period last year. In 2024, the live storage available in these reservoirs at this time was 68.203 BCM, while the normal storage was 69.947 BCM. This means that the current live storage in these 155 reservoirs is 118% of last year's levels and 115% of the normal storage for this period.

The guide: How to dress right for your body type

In a world of ever-changing trends, it might not always be easy to know how to adapt them for Indians' unique (and beautiful!) body shapes. We have created this handy guide to help you learn how to dress for your body shape and play up your most favorite features with the styles you have (or should have) in your closet. Take a look!

Work with the very Indian body type: The hourglass

The hourglass figure is pretty much every woman's dream and is often referred to as the "ideal" body type.

If you're one of those fortunate women who have almost the same measurements at hip and bust with a defined waist, following the shape of an hourglass, congratulations! You have some deadly curves to display!

When dressing an hourglass figure, there are a few basic guidelines to follow that'll help you think like a stylist and create outfits you can't wait to wear.

Use lines to grab attention where you need it to go. Lines are your best friend and will help you accentuate the favourite parts of your body.

Your figure is made for dresses; don't shy away from them. A fit-and-flare dress is designed to focus on your waist and flow effortlessly.

If your clothing doesn't give you a defined waistline, a belt will do the trick.

Nail the slender body: The rectangle

Similar to an hourglass but without the waist, women with rectangular silhouettes are fairly straight. If your shoulders and hips measure almost the same with a waist that is more straight than curvy, your body shape resembles that of Anushka Sharma, Nargis Fakhri and Anne Hathaway!

The most exciting thing about having a rectangular body type is that you can also play dress-up according to the assets you want to accentuate or highlight.

Emphasising your waist is an effortless and simple way to break up the rectangle. Opting for cinched clothing items will flatter your waist.

Another way to give yourself curves is to choose tops that will highlight your upper body and give your waist shape. If you have a rectangular body type, you can pretty much pull off anything when it comes to bottoms. Prints will add depth to your straight silhouette.

Balance is key: The inverted triangle

If your shoulders are broader than your hips, you have one of the most athletic bodies around. Prominent shoulders give this body type an athletic-looking physique.

It is important to balance your broad shoulders with your narrow lower body to create a symmetrical look. Opt for outfits that add curves to the hips and bottom while creating a more defined waist to help you create the right proportions.

Going for clothes that will add volume to your lower body will widen your hips.

Bright or printed wide-legged bottoms are a no-brainer as they will balance your shape and also help in drawing attention to your legs.

You're in the big league! The triangle

If your hips are your body's centre-stage, you're in the league of JLo and Rihanna. A triangle or pear-shaped body type basically suggests that your lower body is more prominent as compared to your upper body. Drawing attention away from your hips and onto your waist is the key!

You might want to call attention to your waist while creating the illusion of volume on the upper body; a waist-defining silhouette like the peplum would do the trick. Another tip: Layering, layering and layering! Jackets and coats will create visual interest and draw the eye upwards.

Remember to steer clear of boxy tops that hide the waist. Keep bottoms simple and avoid details, patterns and bright colours; instead opt for darker-coloured bottoms. **–Femina**

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North Bengaluru: Prime plots for sale

North Bengaluru is emerging as a prime destination for homebuyers and investors looking for affordable yet well-developed residential plots. With rapid urbanisation and infrastructure growth, the region offers plotted developments with essential amenities, making them ideal for immediate registration and construction.

Key features

Realtors said that the plotted layouts in North Bengaluru come with all the necessary civic amenities, including tarred roads, water supply, streetlights, underground sewage lines, and electricity connections. Many projects also include parks, landscaped open spaces, and security provisions, ensuring a comfortable living environment. "Unlike unapproved layouts, these plots are part of well-planned developments with clear titles, making the buying process hassle-free," says a leading real estate consultant. With increasing demand, these properties perfectly balance affordability and long-term value appreciation.

Connectivity & growth potential

Strategically located near key areas like Hebbal, Yelahanka, Devanahalli, and Hennur, North Bengaluru enjoys seamless connectivity to Kempegowda International Airport, major IT parks, and commercial hubs. The upcoming metro expansion and improved road networks further enhance accessibility, making the region a hotspot for future growth.

Why invest now?

With prices still reasonable compared to South and East Bengaluru, investing in ready-to-build plots in North Bengaluru ensures a great opportunity for end-users and investors.

"The region is set for exponential growth, and early buyers will benefit the most. For those looking to build their dream home in a well-planned community, North Bengaluru offers the perfect blend of affordability, infrastructure, and future growth potential," says a property developer.

–Prakash VL

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The demand for farmland with premium amenities is growing rapidly as more people seek a peaceful retreat away from urban chaos. Modern farmland projects now offer resort-style living, combining nature with luxury. These developments feature clubhouses, cottages, restaurants, and even sandalwood plantations, making them an attractive investment and lifestyle choice.

New standard of farm living

Unlike traditional farmlands, today's projects cater to those who wish to experience nature without compromising on comfort. "People no longer see farmland as just an agricultural space. They want an escape where they can relax, rejuvenate, and also generate passive income," says a leading real estate consultant.

Perfect weekend getaway

Strategically located near cities, these farmlands serve as weekend homes while also ensuring appreciation in land value. With growing urban stress, more people are choosing eco-friendly getaways. "The idea of waking up to fresh air, taking a dip in the pool, and enjoying organic food is driving this trend. It's a luxury you can own," says a satisfied investor.

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4,179 vehicle thefts recorded in 5 months

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was arrested by Whitefield Police, leading to the recovery of 10 stolen vehicles worth Rs 7 lakh. The case began when a resident of Himmadihalli filed a complaint on January 18, reporting the theft of his two-wheeler from an apartment parking lot. Acting on leads, police detained a suspect from Madura Nagar, Varthur, on February 18, with two stolen bikes. Upon interrogation, he confessed to stealing multiple vehicles across Bengaluru.

Further investigation led to the recovery of eight more stolen two-wheelers from a vacant lot in Madhura Nagar on February 22. The accused was remanded to police custody for 10 days and later sent to judicial custody on February 24.

According to police officials, key hotspots for vehicle thefts include areas near metro stations, crowded market zones, and poorly lit residential streets, vehicles parked in front of PG and outside tea shops, bakery or grocery shops, outside the house gates. Thieves particularly target older vehicles without modern anti-theft mechanisms, making them easy to steal and dismantle for spare parts.

In another operation, a man involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts was arrested and a stolen gold chain and three stolen vehicles worth Rs 2.25 lakh were recovered from him. The case originated when a complainant at a PG in BTM Layout, 1st Phase, reported on January 4, that an unidentified individual snatched a 13-gram gold chain from their neck while riding a scooter.

The Suddaguntepalya Police registered a case of chain-snatching and launched an investigation. Following leads, police detained a suspect at Chandralayout police station boundary on February 4, along with a stolen vehicle. During interrogation, the accused admitted to the crime and confessed to stealing two-wheelers from various parts of Bengaluru.

"We urge the public to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to secure their vehicles. When parking, whether in front of your house, in a commercial space, or at a mall, ensure that it is locked and secured properly. Choosing a well-lit and secure location can significantly reduce the risk of theft. Additionally, modern anti-theft measures such as GPS trackers, steering locks, and advanced security systems should be considered for added protection. Even during nighttime parking, extra precautions must be taken to safeguard vehicles," Dayananda added.

Interests of account holders to be kept in mind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

impersonated the Principal Director of State Audit and Accounts, sending messages to juniors to transfer money. Many trusted the messages and transferred funds online without verification. The police are currently investigating the matter.

Monitor low-balance accounts instead of immediate freezing

A crucial aspect of the directive is that if an account has a significant credit balance, it must be frozen, but if not, officers are advised to monitor transactions instead of immediate freezing. Further, the order mandates that any freezing action must be promptly reported to a competent court for compliance under BNSS.

If an investigation determines that a frozen account is not linked to criminal proceeds, the IO must seek legal opinion and obtain court approval before proceeding with de-freezing.

However, there have been reports of victims being asked to pay money to have their accounts unfrozen, with some being demanded half of the amount present in their accounts at the time of freezing.

Similarly, in cases where an Escrow, Salary, or Business Account holds more funds than the suspected crime proceeds, the IO may seek approval to partially de-freeze the account while placing a lien on the portion linked to the alleged crime.

The final decision on de-freezing, particularly for accounts of primary accused persons, can only be made by a competent court. Investigation officers are instructed to consult their supervisory officers and legal advisors before making any freezing or de-freezing decisions to prevent procedural lapses.

The directive, issued by the DG & IGP, mandates strict adherence to these procedures in all ongoing and future investigations.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Noor Jan R/a #27A N no 22 Edga Road River bank 2nd Lane Chunambukalai Ambur Tirupattur Tamil Nadu - 635802. I have changed my name to Noor Jahan. Vide affidavit dated 20-03-2025. sworn before notary B.S. Padmaprasad B'lore.

I, Prachi Sameer Salunke Resident Flat B-312, Bridge Orchards Deodar, Devanahalli, Blr-562110 changed my name from Prachi Balasaheb Mohite to Prachi Sameer Salunke all future purposes.

I Sowmya Rudrappa Honnavada W/o Naveen R K R/o 9/7,4th Cross,Saraswathipura, Nandini layout, Bangalore 560096 have changed my name to Sowmya for all purposes

I Manoorma, M/O No 6499274K Hav Sachin Yadav of 1-ATC changed name to Manorama Yadav vide affidavit dt 18 Mar 25 Notary BM Chandrashekar, Bangalore

I Mahamad Saleha M S/o Mahamad Ekbal R/o No 498 15th Crs Devaraj Urs Nagar Bangalore-560026 have changed my name to Mohammed Saleha M For All Purposes

I, Praveen Begum R/a #69 3rd cross Modi Garden Bangaragiri Nagar JC Nagar Bangalore 560006. I have changed my name to Parveen Taj Begum. Vide affidavit dated 20-03-2025. Sworn before notary B.S. Padmaprasad B'lore.

I, IRAMMA w/o Shivakumar Nayak R/a.No.23,Gokul Nilaya, 4th Cross, Garvebhavi Palya, Bommnahalli, Bangalore-68, I, have changed my name to VINAYA KUMARI for all purpose. Vide affidavit dated 12.03.2025 Sworn before Notary M Virupakshappa Raichur

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APR: 5, 15, 18, 20 JUN: 5*, 14*
AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 16 DAYS
MAR: 29 APR: 6, 8, 11, 18, 23, 30 MAY: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30
KASHI AYODHYA GAYA/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
APR: 13*, 14, 20* 20, 27* MAY: 3, 9, 11*, 15, 23, 24* JUN: 1*, 2, 8, 8* 19
KASHI AYODHYA/BADRI KEDAR* 14*/21 DAYS
APRIL: 22, 27, 29* MAY: 3, 9, 10*, 15, 16*, 21, 22*, 28* JUN: 2, 8, 9*
CHAR DHAM 19 DAYS: MAY 20, 26 JUN: 1, 7, 13, 17, 24 JUL: 1
SHIMLA MANALI/MUSSOORIE NAINITAL* 15/14* DAYS APR: 2, 14*, 30

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INTERVIEW | RAMESH REDDY, PRODUCER

'45 set to create history'

Audiences can expect stellar cast, unique story, gripping stunts and more from film, says Reddy

Meet producer Ramesh Reddy, known for big-budget movies, who is bullish about the much-awaited pan-Indian movie 45. Ramesh Reddy, basically a civil contractor, made his debut as a producer in Sandalwood with the film Uppu Huli Kara in 2017. Ramesh Reddy's specialty is selecting unique scripts and making sure that there is no compromise on matters of quality. In a brief interview with Y Maheswara Reddy, he speaks about why movie goers have to watch 45.

You became a producer with Kannada movie Uppu Huli Kara more than seven years ago. You encouraged Imran Sardharia, basically a choreographer, to direct the movie. Now, you have assigned Arjun Janya, basically a music director, to direct the movie 45. What made you rely on Arjun Janya?
I am very happy to rely on Arjun Janya who makes debut as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. Arjun Janya worked as a music director for Kannada movie Gaalipata 2. He informed me about the concept of this movie during the shooting of Gaalipata 2. Initially I did not expect him to take it forward. After a few days, he met me to narrate the script. It was very interesting.

How was your meeting with Arjun Janya?
It was quite interesting. The script was unique. I advised Arjun Janya to explain the script in animation mode. He took a year to complete the animation work. He did a commendable job. I asked him to go ahead with the shooting of the movie 45.

Who selected the cast for the movie 45?
I gave a free hand to director Arjun Janya to select the cast and crew. It was his decision to select the suitable cast and crew for the movie.

Are you happy with the lead actors Dr Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty?
I am lucky to have Dr Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty for this movie. They have worked hard during the shooting. Dr Shiva Rajkumar looks different and unique on the screen. His looks and performance will be a treat for his fans. Upendra has also acted well and was very cooperative during the shooting. Raj B Shetty is a good human being and a versatile actor. Stunt choreographer Ravi Varma also did a fantastic job. I want the movie buffs to watch this movie at theatres because it is worth watching by all ages starting from eight-year-olds to 80-year-old people.

You are basically a civil contractor. How did you enter Sandalwood?
I had a passion towards movies since childhood. I used to imagine how it would be if my parents or me associate with Sandalwood. I am fortunate the God is very kind towards me. I became what I want to be and God gave me what I wanted.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Suhana causes flutter among paps

Shah Rukh Khan's daughter, actress Suhana Khan, was recently spotted in the city during a casual outing with her friends. However, the scene became somewhat chaotic when fans and paparazzi mobbed the actress for pictures as she exited the restaurant. After Suhana left, her rumoured boyfriend, Agastya Nanda, was also seen leaving the venue with her friends.

In the video shared by paparazzi online, Suhana was seen leaving a cosy restaurant in Mumbai with her friends. She was dressed in a black sleeveless T-shirt paired with bell-bottom jeans. She kept her hair open and carried a small tan bag. As soon as she stepped out of the restaurant, paparazzi and fans surrounded The Archies actress, requesting pictures and poses. She appeared to struggle while making her way to her car, with her friends assisting her through the crowd. She was also seen checking on her girl gang while entering her vehicle.

After she left the venue, her rumoured boyfriend, Agastya Nanda, was also spotted entering his car, wearing a white and blue striped shirt paired with blue denim trousers.

Earlier, she took to her Instagram account to share pictures with her friends inside the restaurant and also posted some glimpses of the cosy setup. However, she did not share any pictures with Agastya from the restaurant. One social media user reacted to her video, saying, "You are always so graceful; it must be tough to deal with this all the time." Another fan praised her simple look, while many others responded with heart emojis.

On the work front, Suhana made her debut with 'The Archies' in 2023. Directed by Zoya Akhtar, the film also featured Agastya Nanda, Khushi Kapoor, Vedang Raina, Mihir Ahuja, Aditi "Dot" Saigal, and Yuvraj Menda in key roles. Suhana is now set to make her big-screen debut alongside her father, Shah Rukh Khan, in the action drama 'King'. The film is expected to star Abhishek Bachchan as the antagonist.

—ETimes

Sydney in a dual role

Warner Bros has greenlit a new thriller project, 'I Pretended to Be a Missing Girl,' with Sydney Sweeney attached to star in and produce the film.

According to Deadline, the movie is based on a Reddit short story by Joe Cote, which has been adapted for the screen by Oscar-winning writer Eric Roth.

The film reportedly follows a drifter who impersonates a missing girl to rob her family, only to realize she has made a terrible mistake.

Sweeney's production company, Fifty-Fifty Films, is producing the project alongside Vertigo's Roy Lee, Steven Schneider, Trevor Engelson, and Aaron Folbe at Underground.

This role will mark another project in Sweeney's career which she is producing.

She recently executive produced Sony's romantic comedy 'Anyone But You,' and also produced the nun horror movie 'Immaculate,' which premiered at SXSW last year.

Sweeney's upcoming projects include 'The Housemaid,' a thriller directed by Paul Feig, in which she stars alongside Amanda Seyfried and Brandon Sklenar. She is also set to star in and produce 'Scandalous!,' a biopic about Kim Novak's clandestine love affair with Sammy Davis Jr., and 'Echo Valley,' an Apple project starring Juliane Moore, Kyle MacLachlan, and Domhnall Gleeson.

—ANI

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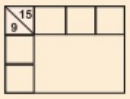
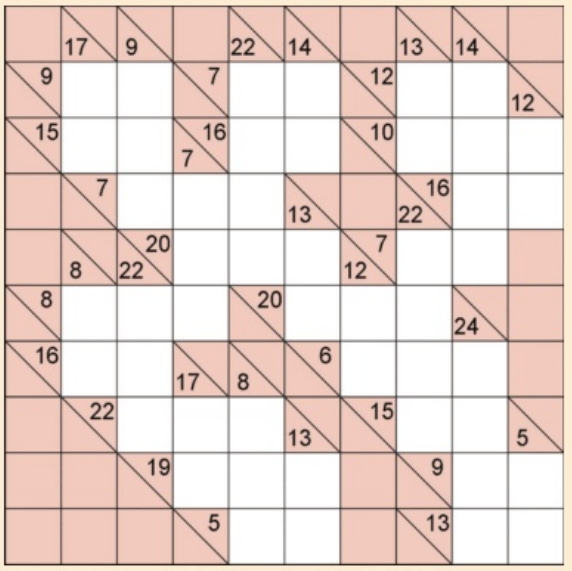
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

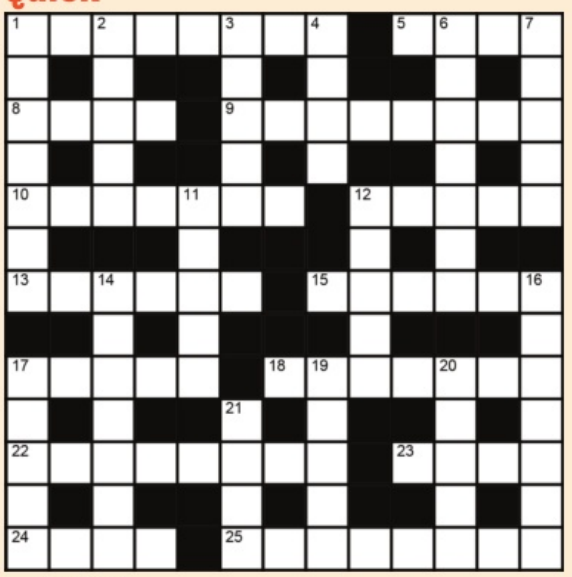


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Shook with a slight but rapid motion, trembled (8)
5 Butter-like extract from African tree's seeds (4)
8 Concerning, in legal terms–"rein" anagram ? (2,2)
9 Government building that offers a view of Ulsoor Lake on one side and the Bangalore Race Course on the other (4,4)
10 Realm (7)
12 Equilateral parallelogram (5)
13 Chat (6)
15 French tower (6)
17 Area for skating (5)
18 Peevishly (7)
22 Characteristics (8)
23 Place; stead (4)
24 Slender bars (4)
25 Persons of talent (8)

DOWN

1 Accelerate (7)
2 Delhi Belly star ___ Khan (5)
3 Tragic Montague (5)
4 Indian oil lamp (4)
6 Begin a journey (4,3)
7 Speak off the cuff (2-3)
11 Considers (5)
12 Zoo beast (5)
14 Large drinking cup (7)
16 Arrays, formats or plans (7)
17 Seek information from (5)
19 Start over (5)
20 Garment (5)
21 General location (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS O

YQQYECTULCLON BEO DLFO NTUELNON. LV SYT ABLC CYY DYUW, SYT JLNN CIOJ.

Linemaro

You are so beautiful, your birthday should be a national holiday

Mindchow

Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow

Joke of the day

Whenever I feel the need to exercise, I lie down until it goes away

Loop

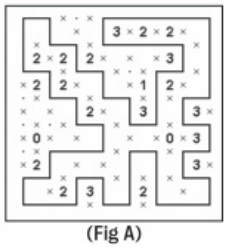
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

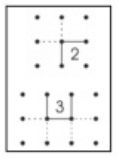
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

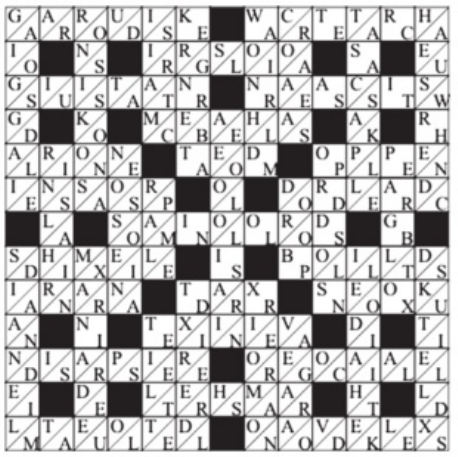


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

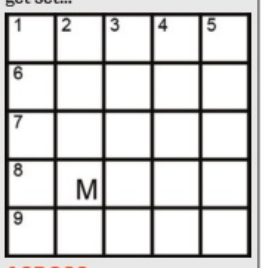
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

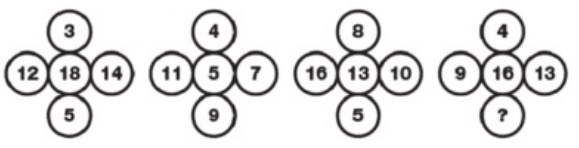
1 Ad Rug; 6 Re Old;
7 Eva in; 8 Lip me;
9 Fly at

DOWN

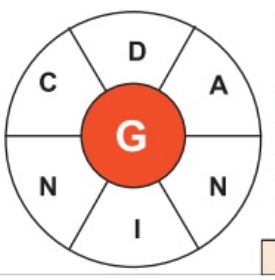
1 Gin of; 2 A alum;
3 Taped; 4 Lever;
5 Ry lid

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

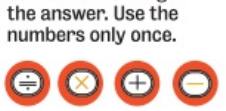
SudokuChallenge

8	7	3				2		9
	2	6	8	9				
1			6		7			
3		9		6			5	
2	5						4	1
	6			4		8		3
			9		4			7
				8	1	5	2	
5		7				9	1	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 11
3 3 4 6

Medium ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 8
1 3 6 6

Hard ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 24
1 2 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

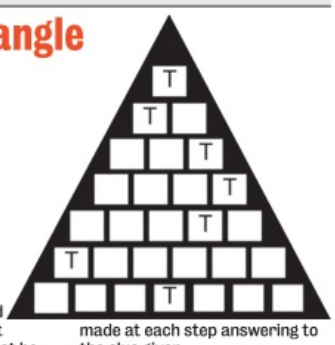
Differences: 1. Laundry basket is moved. 2. Clothespin is missing. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Window is different. 5. Mouth is not open as wide. 6. Feet are smaller.

Riddler

Which abbreviation from Group A should be in Group B?
GROUP A adj. B.C. etc. No. pl.
GROUP B a A.D. c e.g. i.e.s.tif

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Et Brute
3 Tyre track
4 Corrosion
5 Injures
6 Sudden push
7 Camera part



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

THE SAILOR GENTLEMAN HAS STOPPED DIGGING!
HM? PERHAPS? MAYBE?
HAVE YOU FOUND GOLD, POPEYE ?
IF IT IS YELLOW, SOFT AN' HEAVY, I THINKS I FOUN' A NUGGET!
ONE NUGGET! BAH!!
I CAN'T BUY CULTURE AN' BREEDING WITH ONE NUGGET!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MOM
YOUR NEW SNOW BOOTS ARE IN THE MAIL ROOM. YOU CAN PICK THEM UP WHEN YOU GET HOME FROM SCHOOL! BE CAREFUL ON THE ICE!!
RACE TO THE APARTMENT? MY BOOTS ARE IN THE MAIL ROOM!
YOU'RE ON!
LITERALLY HALF A SECOND LATER
HEART!!
SLIP!
OMG, ARE YOU OKAY??
I CAN'T FEEL MY TOES, SO MAYBE NOT.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Blessed by the Moon, you will feel happy and engaged at work. Your professional network may expand, and with the guidance of elders, new plans will be implemented, ensuring future success. Social interactions, including a visit to relatives or a gathering with friends, may be on the agenda.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel emotionally sensitive or sluggish today. Health concerns could arise, so avoid rash driving and be cautious of hidden enemies or workplace conspiracies. Lovebirds should practice patience and avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Self-reflection will help you recognize and correct past mistakes, boosting your confidence at work. Disputes in partnerships may be resolved, and harmony with your spouse is likely. Students may make crucial career decisions, and singles could find a suitable match.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The Moon's blessings bring happiness and momentum to stalled projects. Professional performance improves, and job seekers may find promising opportunities. Strengthening relationships with your spouse is likely, while singles may meet their soulmate. Promotions and marriage planning are also on the cards.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Confidence will be high, thanks to the blessings of elders. Work efficiency improves, and new business innovations could bring financial gains. Rivals will be under control. Helping the needy may enhance your reputation, and you might invest in creative home decor.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Your day will be a mix of events. Time spent with children and a short academic-related trip may be in store. Romantic moments with your partner are likely, and couples may receive good news about childbirth. Employees might consider further education to enhance skills, while family outings are also possible.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Patience is key, as focusing on goals may be difficult today. Avoid investing in fixed assets for now. Pay close attention to your parents' health, and postpone major financial decisions until you gain more clarity.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Energy and confidence will drive you. Investments in essential household or office items may occur. Your determination will help you complete projects on time. Disputes with siblings may be resolved, and short work-related trips could expand your professional network.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A favorable day awaits, with controlled expenses and increased savings. Home improvements, including purchasing artifacts or office renovations, may take priority. Family harmony prevails. Lovebirds may plan their marriage, singles may meet their soulmate, and children are likely to perform well.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A surge of energy and confidence brings new opportunities at work. Family businesses may flourish, and chronic illnesses could show improvement. Travel plans, possibly overseas, may be in the works.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Dullness and impatience may affect your day. Health issues could surface, so avoid adventure activities and rash driving. Hidden adversaries may be at play, making it best to steer clear of arguments and unnecessary confrontations.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Your professional life will thrive, but passion for work may lead to mental exhaustion, limiting social interactions. However, your spouse will provide strong emotional support. Lovebirds may make significant marriage-related decisions, while job seekers might receive good news through their network.

KIDZONE

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[4-8+4] / [4+4] = 0/8 = 0

BULL'S EYE
caning, DANCING, ding, gain

STRIKE OUT

G	R	O	U	S	E	W	R	E	T	C	H	U		
I	N		I	G	L	O	O		A			U		
G	U	I	T	A	R	R	E	A	C	T	S			
G	O		M	E	A	L	S		K			H		
L	I	N	E		T	E	D		O	L	P	E		
E	N	S	O	R		O		O	R	E	A	D		
A		S	A	I	L	O	R	S		B				
D	I	X	I	E		I		B	O	I	L	S		
I	R	A	N		T	A	R		N	O	O	K		
A		N		T	I	N	E	A		D		I		
D	I	A	P	E	R		R	E	C	A	L			
E		D		L	E	H	A	R		T		L		
M	A	U	L	E	D		N	O	V	E	L	S		

FAST FIVE

G	U	A	R	D
O	L	D	E	R
N	A	E	V	I
I	M	P	E	L
F	A	T	L	Y

RIDDLER
etc. All the words from GROUP B are all Latin abbreviations used commonly in the English language, whereas GROUP A, with the exception of "etc." are all abbreviations from the English language.

QUICK

R	O	D	S		A	R	T	I	S	T	E	S		
F	E	A	T	U	R	E	S		L	I	E	U		
E		K		A		E		H		O				
R	I	N	K	S		C	R	O	S	S	L	Y		
A		M		N				A						
N	A	T	T	E	R		E	I	F	F	E	L		
E			E		H		F							
K	I	N	G	D	O	M		R	H	O	M	B		
C		A		E		A		D		I				
U		M		O		I		E		D				
O	U	I	V	E	R	E	D		S	H	E	A		

SUDOKU

8	7	3	4	1	5	2	6	9
4	2	6	8	9	3	1	7	5
1	9	5	6	2	7	4	3	8
3	4	9	1	6	8	7	5	2
2	5	8	3	7	9	6	4	1
7	6	1	5	4	2	8	9	3
6	1	2	9	5	4	3	8	7
9	3	4	7	8	1	5	2	6
5	8	7	2	3	6	9	1	4

MENSA PUZZLE
2. In each diagram, the central value equals the sum of the left and right hand digits, minus the sum of the upper and lower digits.

QUOTE UNCODE
Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, Tu, Rut, Rust, Hurts, Thrust, Shutter.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 x 3 + 6 - 4 = 11
Medium
6 + 6 - 1 - 3 = 8
Hard
8 x 2 + 9 - 1 = 24

LOOP

KAKURO

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